(c) when these machines are likely to be used in Elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) 1.5 lakh electronic voting machines at a cost of about Rupees seventy-five crores were acquired by the Election Commission by 31-3-1990. 444 machines were earlier acquired by the Election Commission at a cost of around rupees twenty-five lakhs during the period 1982-84.

(c) These machines are likely to be used in elections in the near future.

Vacant posts of judges in High Courts

3034. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of judges in High Courts lying vacant throughout the country as on 1st April, 1993;

(b) what are the reasons for keeping these posts vacant; and

(c) when these are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As on 1-3-1993 there were 69 posts of permanent/Additional Judges vacant in the High Courts.

(b) and (c): For filling up the vacant posts in the High Courts the process of consultation among the constitutional authorities concerned has been expedited. It is, however, not possible to Indicated when these vacancies are likely to be filled up.

मध्य प्रदेश के उच्च न्यायालय में हिन्दी का प्रयोग

3035. श्री अजीत जोगी :
श्री आनंद प्रकाश गौतम :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश के अधिवक्ता उच्च न्यायलय और राज्य में इसकी खंडपीठों में हिन्दी भाषा के प्रयोग का विरोध कर रहे हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में अब तक क्या उपचारात्मक कदम उठाये गये हैं ?

विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हंसराज भारद्वाज) : (क) और (ख) मध्य प्रदेश सरकार और मध्य प्रदेश उच्च न्यायालय से जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जायेगी

Alleged Gross Irregularities in Indian Express

3036. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI MOHD. MASUD KHAN:

SHRI P. UPENDRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an appeal was submitted to the Prime Minister by the Indian Express workers on 3rd November, 1992;

(b) whether any action has been taken on the gross irregularities brought out in the appeal by the workers union;

(c) whether it has been noted that country's largest "News Paper Group" is fraught with fierce infighting of the management resulting in the siphoning of company's fund into private affairs in the guise of buying of machinery;

(d) whether it is a fact, that workers union have also alleged the purchase of second-hand Harris NC400 Heat Set Press with 12 units at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.00 crores through S. L. Kulkarni and Company which is reported to be four times the normal purchase price of this second-hand machinery;

(e) if so, whether Government have taken steps to investigate the matter through a Central Investigating Agency like CBI; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor.....

THE MININSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, As per rerpesentation dated 2-11-1992; addressed to the Prime Minister, Indian Express Employees Union (Regd.), New Delhi have, *inter-alia*, alleged infighting among the Goenka family members in the matter of control of the Indian Express Group of newspapers, besides appointment removal of employees and/or Editor. As regards infighting among the Goenka family members, as per press reports, suits have been filled by Mrs. Saroj Goenka; daughter-in-law of late Shri Ramnath Goenka before the Madras High Court seeking declaration that the adoption of Shri Vivek Goenka as the son of late Shri Ramnath Goenka was illegal and void and the subject-matter of the allegations made in the representation are *sub-judice* before the court. In regard to other allegation regarding appointment/removal of employees, it may be stated that these are matters of internal administration of the company and no action is possible under the Companies Act, 1956.

(d)) to (f) Yes, Sir. As per available information, M|s Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Ltd., were granted an import licence, dated 25-10 1991 for the import of one No. Web-fed high speed offset rotatory printing machine — Model No. NCH 400, maximum Web width 336", Cut-off-21", make-1985 or a CIF value of US dollor 4,187,387/- equivalent to Indian Rs. 10,87,40415/- (Rs. ten crores eighty seven lakhs four thousand and fifteen only), from USA. The allegation made by the Union is being referred to Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue for appropriate action. Further, as per press repots, the Union's President has made a similar allegation in the application made before the Madras High Court seeking to implead in the suit, to protect the interests of the employees of the Indian Express Group.

उच्चतम न्यायालय में लंबित मामले

3037. **मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मोम अफजल :**

क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 31 जनवरी, 1993 की स्थिति के अनुसार, उच्चतम न्यायालय में कितने मामले लंबित हैं ;

(ख) सिविल और आपराधिक मामलों की अलग-अलग संख्या कितनी है ; और

(ग) इन मामलों के शीघ्र निपटान हेतु सरकार द्वारा क्या उपाय किये जाने पर विचार किया जा रहा है ?

विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हंसराज भारद्वाज) : (क) से (ग) जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

Proposal to reserve Assembly seat for ST

30338. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh to